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HOUSE RESOLUTION 402  
By McKee

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the good people of  
Plastic Industries, Inc. of Athens on the occasion  
of the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations that, through their extraordinary efforts, have improved the quality of life for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, Plastic Industries, Inc. (PI), is one such estimable institution; during the past half century, the people of Tennessee and of PI have been mutually beneficial to one another and have seen their respective histories become closely intertwined; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, PI has forged a history of industry, progress, and community responsibility in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jones C. Beene III founded PI in 1952 with an original product line that included plastic letters and store displays; the historic Plant One was built in 1955, and PI began injection molding in 1956, introducing plastic furniture legs which are still used today; and

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WHEREAS, in 1963, the visionaries at PI revolutionized furniture manufacturing by successfully molding solid furniture parts, and they received a patent in 1963 for the Ralide saddle tree; fueled by these successes, the company expanded in 1969, purchasing additional manufacturing space and beginning a finishing process; and

WHEREAS, the good people of PI proved their resilience during the difficult decade of the 1970s, which saw them weather an economic recession and face the tragic loss of the company's founder; and

WHEREAS, Plastic Industries emerged stronger than ever in the 1980s when Jeff Beene was name President and the Positive Employee Philosophy (PEP) was implemented; and

WHEREAS, considered "the Golden Rule" as it applies to the workplace, PEP promotes philosophy that companies must effectively develop and use all the God-given capabilities of their employees in order to succeed; PEP has created a wonderful work environment for the people who are employed at PI and is to be highly recommended for the use of other businesses; and

WHEREAS, during the 1980s, PI also expanded by purchasing Sealtech, structural foam molding machines, and a facility in Ferrum, Virginia; PI then entered into the in-ground swimming pool business and opened the Dynaseal facility in Niota to produce milk jug caps; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, this model corporation introduced PI Medical product lines, created its Just-In-Time furniture supply, developed a strategic plan to make PI a world-class operation, initiated its commendable Education Program to conduct basic skills assessments for all employees, began providing on-site educational opportunities, established its Research and Development department, implemented self-managed work teams, expanded facilities at Plant Two, doubled manufacturing space for Sealtech, and formed PI World Wide to meet the challenge of offshore competition; and

WHEREAS, as the company has moved into the new millenium, PI has continued to refine itself into one of the finest institutions in this state; to adapt to changing times, some

product lines have been eliminated and some divisions have been consolidated, but the underlying excellence of the company has remained constant; and

WHEREAS, new leadership has invigorated the corporation as Jeff Beene, Jr., and Jones Beene joined PI and Lou Pascarella was promoted to Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, PI has also taken measures to ensure that the company remains a leading positive force in the community with such innovative programs as PI Charities, which gives employees a chance to share faith, hope, and charity with the community by supporting worthy organizations such as The Good Faith Clinic, The H.O.P.E. Center, and Coordinated Charities; and

WHEREAS, during a century of involvement in the Tennessee's communities, PI has established itself as a vital component of our culture and economy and has played an important role in the development of the high quality of life that is enjoyed by the people of this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend the good people of Plastic Industries, Inc., for the admirable quality of that institution, thank them for their service to Tennessee, and wish them success as the company and this state celebrate fifty years of reciprocal benefit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.